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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE - 1600/2900

#12 B

In re the Application of) Group Art Unit: 1632
) Examiner: P. Paras, Jr.
 David Charles Baulcombe et al.)
)
 Serial No. 09/491,549) Response to Paper No. 10
)
 Filed: January 26, 2000)
)
 For: "GENE SILENCING")

4-27-01
R2.



**AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

In response to the Official Action dated January 19, 2001, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

In the specification:

At page 1, line 2 of the application, please insert the following priority claim:

~~-- The present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) to GB application No. 9925459.1 filed October 27, 1999.--~~

Please substitute lines 3-33 of page 35 with the following abstract in accordance with the Examiner's requirement:

~~-- Methods are disclosed for screening for the occurrence of gene silencing (e.g., post transcriptional gene silencing) in an organism. Also provided are methods for isolating silencing agents so identified.--~~